



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Barrett Calls on Milwaukeeans to Serve as Poll Workers

MILWAUKEE (July 18, 2006) – Predicting high voter turn-out in this fall's elections, Mayor Tom Barrett is calling on Milwaukee citizens to support fair and accurate elections by serving as poll workers in the primary and general elections.

"Voting is at the foundation of a democratic society," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "Milwaukee has a proud history of voter involvement throughout our political processes. I'm asking the city's civic-minded citizens to support this important act of democracy by serving as Election Day workers."

The City of Milwaukee Election Commission operates 200 voting sites on Election Day. Each site registers new electors and issues ballots to registered voters.

"Milwaukee is fortunate to be able to maintain a model of neighbor-hood voting sites," said Mayor Barrett. "Operating these sites allows citizens easy access to voting at a location that is often within a few blocks of their home."

Election Commission Executive Director Susan Edman expects that Milwaukee's voting sites will require a staffing of nearly 2,000 poll workers in order to operate at full efficiency.

"Our goal is to eliminate long lines at polling sites and strengthen our election systems," said Edman. "We want Milwaukeeans to have a positive voting experience and leave their polling site with complete confidence that every vote counts."

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The Election Commission reports that the City's staff of election workers has decreased in the last year as a result of citizens retiring from poll worker positions.

"We have poll workers that have served the City of Milwaukee for 20-30 years," said Edman. "Their commitment and sense of civic responsibility is exemplary. The greatest opportunity to demonstrate our gratitude is to develop a new staff of equally dedicated and knowledgeable election workers."

Poll workers receive training prior to working on an Election Day and have the option of working either a full day or a split shift. Compensation is provided.

For more information, please contact the Election Commission at 286-3491 or visit the web site at www.milwaukee.gov and click on "Election Commission" under the "Departments" tab.